

American Community Survey

Maryland State Data Center

Affiliate Meeting

June 17, 2008

2008 Schedule (tentative)

- August 26th- income and poverty for single year (2007) all areas over 65,000 population
- September (mid)- remaining profile pages for single year (2007) all areas over 65,000
- December - multiyear (2005-2007) data for all areas over 20,000 population (including those that have single year data available) all topics
- Most products identical to those released 2007
- May have out-migration tables in addition to the existing in-migration

ACS Multiyear Estimates

- Areas greater than 20,000 persons
- 3 year estimates based on household population for years 2005, 2006 and 2007; group quarters population 2006 and 2007
- For Maryland most likely all counties will be available except Kent
- Don't mix and match – if using multiyear for an area don't compare to single year data for another area

ACS Multiyear cont'd

- Multiyear estimates will be more precise than single year because the sample size is larger
- Which is more important for your application -
currency of data – use single year
validity of data – use multiyear
- If geography is large (such as a metro county) -
using single year data may be acceptable and
provide information on the most recent changes
(look at the margin of error)

More Multiyear

- Estimates are based on boundaries of the last year (i.e. 2005-2007 city data would use the boundary as of Jan. 2007)
- All years in multiyear estimates are given the same weight; all months (36 for the 3 yr est.) are aggregated
- Dollar values such as income and housing value are adjusted to the last year to make current

ACS Methodology Review

- About 250,000 surveys mailed each month nationally
 - Equal to about 3 million annually
 - Corresponds to a 1 in 40 sample size; decennial long form was 1 in 6 households
 - Census Bureau applies person and household weights
 - Summing the weights produces the estimates
 - ACS is not meant to be used for “counts” of population or race, use the annual population estimates
 - ACS provides “characteristics” about the population

Use more caution with subgroups (single or multiyear data)!!

Percentage of Families Whose Income in the Past 12 Months is Below Poverty Level

Baltimore County 2006 ACS

	Estimate	MOE
All families	5.5%	+/- 0.9
With related children under 5 only	9.0%	+/- 3.2
Female HH'er no husband	24.4%	+/- 10.0

The Census Bureau is preparing Guides to assist users in understanding ACS data. The Guides will be in pdf format and will have examples and case studies and will be available later this year.

The Census Bureau is also planning to provide *Train the Trainer* level of training for the Census Regional Offices as well as the State Data Centers and Census Information Centers.

The training will be at an advanced level with the expectation that the Regional Office staff and SDCs will be able to educate users about how to use the ACS data appropriately.